

REVISIONS TO CLAIMS

1-12 (cancelled)

1 13. (original) A data signal comprising a plurality of data items, comprising:
2 a field indicating the number of data items;
3 the plurality of data items, each item including an identifier;
4 characterized in that the plurality of identifiers form an ordered sequence, and in
5 that the field indicating the number of data items comprises a first and a second subfield, said
6 subfields representing the range of said sequence of identifiers.

14-15 (cancelled)

1 16. (new) An electromagnetic signal for use in a receiving device and embodying a plurality of data
2 items, the data items comprising
3 • a field indicating the number of data items;
4 • the plurality of data items, each item including an identifier;
5 wherein
6 • the plurality of identifiers form an ordered sequence,
7 • the field indicating the number of data items comprises a first and a second subfield,
8 • said subfields represent the range of said sequence of identifiers.

17. (new) The signal of claim 16, wherein the first subfield represents a beginning of the range and
the second subfield represents an end of the range.

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1 18. (new) The signal of claim 17, wherein the first and second subfields enable the receiving device
2 to perform the following operations:

3 • determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by comparing the
4 first and second subfields with the identifiers; and
5 • updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second subfields, in
6 response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete,
7 whereby

8 ○ such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still
9 current and/or complete;
10 ○ other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and
11 ○ the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted
12 changes.

19. (new) The signal of claim 16, wherein the data items are for use in a television.

20. (new) The signal of claim 19, wherein the data items are for use in an electronic program guide
for a television.

21. (new) The signal of claim 16, wherein the subfields are modulo-N numbers, where N is the
maximum number of data items to be kept track of at a given time.

22. (new) An electromagnetic signal embodying a plurality of data items, the data items comprising

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2 • a field indicating the number of data items;

3 • the plurality of data items, each item including an identifier;

4 wherein

5 • the plurality of identifiers form an ordered sequence;

6 • the field indicating the number of data items comprises a first and a second subfield, said

7 subfields representing the range of said sequence of identifiers;

8 • the first subfield represents a beginning of the range and the second subfield represents an end

9 of the range;

10 • the first and second subfields are for use in a receiving device in order to enable the receiving

11 device to perform the following operations:

12 • determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by comparing

13 the first and second subfields with the identifiers; and

14 • updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second subfields, in

15 response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete,

16 whereby

17 ○ such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still

18 current and/or complete;

19 ○ other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and

20 ○ the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted

21 changes.

23. (new) The signal of claim 22, wherein the data items relate to television programming.